

ent policy, and her independence now borders upon hostility. In vain has Prince Bismarck tried every means of conciliating the Emperor of Russia, but all seems to be lost on his solitary will. The Emperor is influenced by the passions of his people, who feel an innate hostility to Germans and German culture. In a country which has no parliamentary institutions, no free press, no chambers, the sovereign, while he seems autocratic, is nevertheless swayed by a public opinion which finds its expression in a hundred ways. The order of the day in Russia is now a return to old Russian habits, customs, institutions, prejudices, a total severance from all occidental influences. The emperor leads the people and the people lead the emperor in this new crusade. A war between Russia and Germany would really be a war between two different civilizations. Everybody has felt that France and Russia were drawn toward each other during the past few years by an almost irresistible instinct. There has never been a complete political understanding between them; no treaty of alliance has been signed; but the two nations have felt more interest in each other, and have entered into a kind of moral alliance. The Russian government has several times intimated that Russia desired to see France make herself stronger. The instability of the French cabinets, the character of her republican institutions, the conservative sentiments of the Czar have prevented any definitive alliance. But the Emperor's advisers have persuaded him lately that too much importance ought not to be attached to the incidents of parliamentary life; that beneath the political divisions in France there is a strong undercurrent of patriotism, that in case of war all party division would rapidly disappear, and that the chiefs of the army would play the principal role in the development of events. On the subject of the French army the Emperor receives very special and complete information, and the conclusion which has been arrived at by his informants is that the French army today is in excellent order, has very able commanders, and constitutes a political element of the greatest importance.

It was thought at one time that the painful incident of Sanyollo would make bad blood between Russia and France; Russian blood had been shed, and there certainly was much irritation manifested by the Russian press. On the first occasion when, after the affair at Sanyollo, the Emperor met the diplomatic body, the French ambassador, M. de Laboulaye, naturally felt some anxiety and his colleagues much curiosity. The emperor approached M. de Laboulaye with his usual courtesy, and merely said, "I regret deeply the incident which has just taken place," and then after a short pause, "But it will not embroil us" (*cela nes nous brouil lera pas*).

Between the constellation formed by the three powers of Central Europe, Prussia, Austria, and Italy, and the nebulous moral alliance of

France and Russia, what will be the conduct of England? Her interests are at present in the hands of a very able man, Lord Salisbury, who has lost much of his old ardor but gained in diplomatic knowledge, foresight, and true statesmanship. He fully understands the forces which are opposing each other; he feels keenly the great responsibilities of his post; he has not, so far, committed a single fault. England has her hands free; she is so placed that she can observe the development of events, bide her time, and choose her hour. France regrets that in the small matter of the conversion of the privileged debt of Egypt her foreign office should have shown some ill-will toward England, at a time when it is essential that France should make no enemies. All the powers had assented to this conversion, which would benefit the Egyptian fellah. France has asked some guarantees and demanded the fixing of a date for the evacuation of Egypt. The French foreign office cannot be consoled for the diminution of its influence in the valley of the Nile. Time will show what effect this attitude of the French government may have upon the orientation of the English policy.

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#### CURRENT TOPICS IN EUROPE.

One of the silent movements of the times is the increase of woman's influence in journalism. For three centuries after the invention of the printing press woman had but little influence in literature. Very few names of women are on the muster-roll of literary worthies previous to the days of Queen Elizabeth. Indeed, it was not till the beginning of this century that the gates of the temple of literature swung feely open to welcome within its portals the sisterhood of earnest, thoughtful women. Harriet Martineau, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, George Sand and George Eliot did not enter that temple by accident, nor by the too generous courtesy of its amiable janitors. No one can tell the number of women who now take high rank in the vocation of literature, nor can their influence be measured. Today their numbers are rapidly increasing. Twenty years hence thousands of women will have a large share in the guidance of the social and religious life of the age. That so many women are finding an appropriate sphere in journalism should be a matter of congratulation. The public at large would perhaps be greatly astonished if it knew to what an extent the brains of women are supplying the good, strong, healthful mental food contained in our best magazines. It is obvious at a glance that there are many subjects on which women, in the very nature of the case, must have clearer, wiser views than men.

Most schoolboys are able to tell us that Lhassa is the capital of Thibet; but how that should be known is more than one is able to

tell, seeing that not a single traveler from any civilized country has yet set foot in that holy city of Buddha. The latest attempt to reach the capital of the Grand Lama has just been made by an American traveler, Mr. W. W. Rockhill, but he, like all others, was unsuccessful. Not only to the intrepid traveller and his friends, but likewise to geographers in general, his failure is a matter of regret. Mr. Rockhill was eminently qualified to succeed in the task which he had set himself. In the first place he was a highly favored person, having been for some years the Secretary of the American Legation at Peking. He was thoroughly acquainted with the Chinese, their language and prejudices, and in addition was master of that most difficult of all difficult languages, the Thibetan. So far as it was possible to prepare himself, Mr. Rockhill was equipped in every possible way. Crossing China proper he made for Mongolia, where he doffed his ordinary attire and disguised himself as a Buddhist pilgrim. He had the good fortune to gain the goodwill of the conductor of a party of devotees going to Lhassa, and was allowed to join the caravan. For a time all went well, and it appeared as if the Western explorer would really succeed in his enterprise and plant his foot in the heart of the Buddhist dominions. Unfortunately, Mr. Rockhill appears to have informed some friends of his projected journey, and rumors were spread about of a foreigner having attached himself to a caravan in order to penetrate to Lhassa. The rumor reached the ears of the authorities, who gave strict orders to watch the pilgrim parties entering Thibet by the two great caravan routes leading from Eastern Mongolia. The result was that Mr. Rockhill, when within a few days' journey of the city, was seized, his effects confiscated, and he carried back to China in a destitute condition. The Russian traveler Prejevalsky tried three times to reach Lhassa, and three times he failed. He spent years in exploring the dreary solitudes of Northern Thibet, and managed to get much nearer to the capital of the Lama than Mr. Rockhill; and yet he was forced to abandon the hope of his life, which was to tread the ground of the holy city of Buddha. The last attempt he made cost him his life, and he now lies at rest on the shores of the lake he explored, known as Issik-kul. Even the Hungarian, Csoma Korosi, the most profound Thibetan scholar the century has produced, and who lived twenty years on Thibetan soil, was never able to penetrate to the capital. And all this is the more remarkable as the British have long held a station at Sikkim, scarcely a hundred miles from Lhassa.

The death of King Luis of Portugal, which took place on the 19th of October, has removed from the world one of the most intellectual of monarchs. Prudent beyond most of his ancestors, his reign of twenty-eight years has been notable for few of those incidents which furnish material for the historian. The old ad-